

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

#### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (Currently amended). Chewable articles for animals, ~~typically for household pets~~ such as household dogs and cats, the articles being made from inulin or ~~comprising~~ mixtures of inulin and/or oligofructans with thermoplastic polymers.

Claim 2 (Original). Chewable articles according to Claim 1, produced from thermoplastically processable inulin or from mixtures of inulin and/or oligofructans with thermoplastic polymers.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently amended). Chewable articles according to Claim 10 ~~[[3]]~~, in which the biodegradable polymer is selected from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~ starch in its natural, chemically modified, or physically modified forms, aliphatic polyesters, ethylene vinyl alcohol or vinyl acetate copolymers, polyvinyl alcohol, aromatic aliphatic copolymers, polyamides, and polyester polyamide copolymers.

Claim 5-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Currently amended). Chewable articles according to Claim 12 ~~[[6]]~~, in which the plasticizer is sorbitol or glycerol.

Claims 8-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently amended). Chewable articles according to Claim 1, in which the thermoplastic polymer is selected from ~~the~~ biodegradable polymers.

Claim 11 (Previously presented). Chewable articles according to Claim 1, in which the quantity of inulin and/or oligofructans present in the mixtures with thermoplastic polymers is between 10 and 20% by weight.

Claim 12 (Previously presented). Chewable articles according to Claim 1, in which the inulin and the mixtures of inulin and/or oligofructans with thermoplastic polymers are rendered thermoplastically processable by extrusion at temperatures of between 80 and 200°C in the presence of water and/or a plasticizer containing hydroxyl groups.

Claim 13 (Previously presented). Chewable articles according to Claim 1, in the form of bones for dogs.

Claim 14 (Previously presented). A thermoplastically processable material comprising mixtures of inulin and/or oligofructans with thermoplastic polymers.

Application No.: 09/936,534  
Amendment Dated: March 13, 2006  
Reply to Office Action Dated: November 14, 2005

Claim 15 (Cancelled).